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eyes deepened to a steady glow, a pledge of the confidence that was coming over them. Everybody fairly bristled with energy, and it was immediately noticeable in the papers. My discouragement oozed away; I had been cranking my machine for over half the year, but at last the spark caught and my chief office was to be as careful a guide as possible. The rest of the term was real joy-riding!

(The story referred to is "The Manner of My Adoption" in the *Outlook* of May 12, 1912.)

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AN A-Z (AISY) METHOD FOR MARKING THEMES

- A is for Accurate; you have not said
Precisely the thing that you had in your head.
- B is for Bravo; it means you have won
Your teacher's approval; your work is well done.
- C stands for Construction; your sentence is weak
Because it was not built with care, so to speak.
- D is for Doubtful; your meaning's in doubt;
Ambiguity's fatal; cast the oaf out.
- E is for Emphasis; points that are strong
First or last in the theme or the sentence belong.
- F is for Facts; you will scribble in vain
If a grip on these churls you don't get and retain.
- G is for Grammar; your grammar's at fault;
On the fortress of syntax you've made an assault.
- H is for Hackneyed; the story you've told
In the days of Nebuchadnezzar was old.
- I stands for Instructions. Learn to obey.
He who humbles himself is exalted, they say.
- J is for Joining; each sentence should lead
By an easy transition from those which precede.
- K is for Key-Word; your title should be
To open your subject an accurate key.
- L is for Length; your story's too long;
Brevity marks most writing that's strong.

M is for Matter; your matter's too light;
Nine-tenths of your work should be done ere you write.

N is for Number; pray take it from me
That subject and verb should in number agree.

O is for Order; your words are arranged
In an order which may to advantage be changed.

Punctuation! Such errors can mostly be traced
To a lack of grammatical training or haste.

Q stands for Quotation. Quotation marks show
How much of your wit to others you owe.

R is for Redundant. Pray note and take heed:
Don't repeat words or thoughts unless there is need.

S is for Spelling; you've misspelled a word;
Noah Webster will teach you wherein you have erred.

T is for Tense; don't flounder and flop
From Father Time's feet to Eternity's top.

U is for Unity; ash-pile and dough
Were never designed in the parlor to go.

V is for Vulgar, and slang is a thing
That a parrot can use as well as a king.

W is for Words; they are quaint in their ways;
Some other word here will better the phrase.

X is a Cross, often used as a dot,
Because it is plain when a period's not.

Y is for Youth; if you're indolent now,
You'll be ditto when age has wrinkled your brow.

Z is for Zero; pray take up your pen,
And with painstaking care write this paper again.

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